

■ METRO/A17
Avenue Theater: Nat'l Artist's work reduced to rubble

■ WORLD/A20
Indonesian quake victims hit slow aid

■ ACROSS/A15
Benguet police refile charges against 'Punks 11'

■ BUSINESS/B1
BSP sees May inflation hitting high of 7.5%

Beauties, show biz stars back antismoking drive



By Christian V. Esguerra

TO COUNTER THE TOBACCO industry's aggressive advertising campaign featuring beautiful faces and bodies, antismoking advocates have tapped beauty queens and film stars to get their message across.

BEAUTIES/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, June 1, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 173 P18

Prayer rally supports mining in Rapu-Rapu

By Ephraim Aguilar
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Norman Bordadora

AS ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY ANGELO REYES ponders the fate of its Rapu-Rapu operations, Australia's Lafayette Mining says its project in Albay deserves a second chance despite hefty fines and rehabilitation costs from two 2005 spills that forced the company to suspend operations.

PRAYER/A4



$500,000 REWARD

Wearing hats and shades and their faces covered to conceal their identities, two Filipino informants receive their $500,000 reward for helping authorities capture Abu Sayyaf leader Rajah Solaiman or Ahmad Santos. US regional security officer William Lamb shows the crisp bills during the prize turnover at the US Embassy in Manila. (Story on Page A2.)

Economy grows 5.5%

But no impact on poor–Neda



By Michelle V. Remo, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Phil Lawrence de Guzman

A REBOUND IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR and robust performance of services pushed economic growth to 5.5 percent in the first quarter, above the 4.2 percent in the same period last year, officials said yesterday.

The expansion of the gross domestic product (GDP), the total value of goods produced and services rendered in the country, met the government's target of between 5 and 5.5 percent despite high oil prices, the dampening effects of higher taxes, and political tension.

Gross national product (GNP), which includes additional income such as the billions of dollars in remittances from some 8 million Filipinos working overseas, grew 5.8 percent, up from 4.9 percent a year earlier.

A beaming President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the rosy economic data, but acknowledged that "more need to be done" to spread the country's economic wealth especially to the masses.

"If growth must directly impact the poor, we need to do more," Ms Arroyo said.

By more, the President meant boosting revenue collection, modernizing agriculture, addressing investment bottlenecks, achieving lasting peace and upgrading English, Science and Math skills.

At a joint Senate and House hearing at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Sen. Alfredo Lim said the GDP growth remained unfelt by Juan de la Cruz. Lim said many Filipinos were still suffering from joblessness.

Romulo Neri, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), admitted that a 5.5-percent growth was not enough for the economic benefits to trickle down to the poor.

The economy had to grow by at least 7 percent to achieve a full trickle-down effect, he said.

Compared with the three months to December, GDP growth was only 0.9 percent.

ECONOMY/A4

CBCP assails killings of activists, journalists

PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE KILLED on the basis of their political views, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said yesterday, condemning the spate of killings of activists in the country.

"It is not right that people be killed simply because they have different political beliefs or are suspected of being subversive or of plotting against the government," CBCP president Angel Lagdameo said in a statement.

He broke his silence amid the unabated killings of militants and journalists.

Lagdameo, the archbishop of Jaro, said the number of killings was "alarming" and "a sad commentary of our country and government, which want to abolish death penalty."

The human rights group Karapatan said it had documented the killings of at least 73 leftist activists by suspected government agents so far this year and 152 in 2005.

Since President Macapagal-Ar-

CBCP/A6

AFP won't name intel agents in torture

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Juliet Labog-Javellana

INVOKING SECURITY REASONS, the Armed Forces yesterday refused to identify the operatives behind the warrantless arrest and alleged torture of five men associated with ousted President Joseph Estrada.

And even as a pretrial investigation preparatory to a court-martial is under way, the military continued to defend the arrests made by armed men in plainclothes, who turned out to be members of the Intelligence Service of the AFP's Military Intelligence Group 15 (MIG-15).

"[There's] not really an order but we don't want to reveal the names for security purposes, because these are operatives," said Col. Tristan Kison, AFP Public Information Office chief and former Isafp official.

"Of course, we have to protect our men from retaliation from the enemy, from the Left, because they are connected with the Left," he said, apparently referring to the five men.

Kison later clarified that he was referring only to Ruben Dionisio, 68, who allegedly bore the brunt of torture by Isafp agents purportedly wanting him to admit to being a communist hit man sent out to kill President Macapagal-Arroyo and certain Cabinet officials.

Even the Senate committee on finance has refused to divulge the contents of the Isafp report on the May 22 arrests. But its chair, Sen. Manuel Villar, yesterday hinted that the report was far from satisfactory.

AFP/A7

Estrada's swan song: I am still President

By Veit Carreras and Nolan F. Flores

HIS ACCUSERS WERE STILL DECIDING whether to put him back on the stand next week, but deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday applied the final touches to his defense testimony by stressing that he chose to face charges to prove his innocence rather than go to "exile" in shame.

As though bowing out after a performance, the former matinee idol also thanked the special Sandiganbayan division, which had been hearing his plunder case for the last five years, for giving him "a chance to be heard."

"I hope and pray to be given justice in this special division, and that the truth will prevail," the 69-year-old ex-President Estrada said in his seventh appearance at the stand.

But minutes before expressing gratitude, he recalled that when the special division was formed by the Supreme Court, "I suspected ... that it was created to ensure my conviction."

Estrada also identified the "powerful and influential people" who allegedly conspired to oust him "because these people never wanted me to become an elected President."

He said the conspirators were President Macapagal-Arroyo, the then Vice President; his predecessor, former President Fidel Ramos; the late Manila archbishop, Jaime Cardinal Sin, and some bishops who "could not accept" his overwhelming poll victory in 1998.

He also named retired Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya; Gen.

ESTRADA/A6



CALIXTO Balabag, presiding "mambunong" or Kankanaey tribal priest, prays for Apo Kabunian's blessing on the first day of the "begnas" or thanksgiving ritual at the Tabla-an barangay hall in Bauko, Mt. Province.

Rituals help vegetable town cope with crisis

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAUKO, MT. PROVINCE—CENTURIES-OLD rituals have become this vegetable-growing town's cure for poverty, blight and a modern-day economic crisis spawned by imported foreign crops competing in local markets.

Few visitors come to the annual "begnas," but the agricultural feast celebrated by the Kankanaey people of the Cordillera on May 19-22 drove blood relatives back to their family farms to give thanks to the gods for a bountiful harvest.

Former Mayor Gregorio Awisan, 83, said the town dissolved its ties to the begnas in 1940 when American missionaries discouraged its practice.

But people noticed the rise in criminality.

RITUALS/A4

Second FRONT PAGE

BIR eyes Congress, Cabinet members

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE IS now receiving information on members of the Cabinet, the Senate and House of Representatives who are allegedly not declaring their income entirely or are not paying the correct amount of taxes.

No work, no pork for solons?



US awards ₱26M to Filipino antiterror tipsters









Economy grows 5.5%; no impact on poor–Neda

Consumer spending

Construction

Higher tax

Medium-term targets

Rituals help vegetable town cope with crisis

Globalization

Good farming



Prayer rally supports mining in Rapu-Rapu

Disaster

Still viable

Not fair enough

Beauties, show biz stars back antismoking drive

Campus tours

Tougher laws

Deadly habit

The PEP Coalition calls on all educational pre-need victims to avail of the scholarship funds donated by the friends and associates of Mr. Mark Jimenez. This initiative would not be possible without the inspiration from the Filipino people and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In as much as we would like to accommodate each and every pre-need victim, PEP Coalition will give priority to those who are most in need of assistance. An estimated 1,500-2,000 scholars may initially be accommodated. The requirements for this scholarship are listed below.

Please send your applications with COMPLETE requirements postmarked on or before June 9, 2006.

MANDATORY CRITERIA

1. Must be a victim of a pre-need educational company (Pacific Traditional Education Plan, CAP, Platinum, TPG, Capitol, Legacy)
2. Must be availing for SY 2006-2007
3. Must be willing to be an active member of the PEP Coalition
4. Electric bill must not be more than 375 kwh (March or April 2006)

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

(Photocopy only)

1. Application letter indicating the following:
   a. Name of scholar
   b. Name of planholder
   c. Address of planholder
   d. Contact numbers (landline and cellphone)
   e. Email address
   f. School enrolled
   g. Complete school address and contact number
   h. A brief statement of eligibility for the scholarship
   i. Course (if college)
2. Valid ID (front and back) - any of the following : BIR ID, Driver's License, Postal ID, Professional Regulatory Commission ID
3. Pre-need company Certificate of Full Payment
4. Assessment of school fees with breakdown of tuition fee and miscellaneous
5. Death certificate of parent/s (if deceased)
6. Medical or doctor's certificate (for handicapped parent/s)
7. Latest electric bill (March or April 2006)

— Tuition assistance shall be 100% of tuition fee excluding miscellaneous and other fees.

— Only mailed applications will be processed; no personal submission of documents will be accepted.

— All applications should be mailed by June 9, 2006. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

— Indicate the name of your pre-need company on the lower right portion of the envelope.

— Address your applications to:
Pre-need Victims Scholarship Fund
c/o PEP Coalition
275 Menlo Road, Pasay City 1300

— Approved applications for the scholarship will be published in major dailies on June 20, 2006.

OFFICERS OF THE PEP COALITION WILL NOT AVAIL OF THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Help fulfill the promise of education.

DONATE TO THE PRE-NEED VICTIMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

For your donations, please contact PEP Coalition at tel. no. (02) 524-9139 or visit www.pepcoalition.com

Application for Membership

I believe in the cause of the PEP Coalition in its fight for TRUTH, JUSTICE and GOOD CORPORATE GOVERNANCE and would like to join your organization.

Name: ______________________

Address: ______________________

Contact Nos. Res. __________ Office: __________ Cellphone No. __________

Email Address: ______________________

Pre-need Company, if any __________ Policy No. __________

____

Signature

Mail to Parents Enabling Parents (PEP) Coalition, Inc., 275 Menlo Road, Pasay City 1300

PEP Coalition

We fight for truth, justice, and good corporate governance!



CBCP assails killings ...

Due process

Sin against life

US ambassador

Erosion of rights

Punish perpetrators

Expect to get hurt





Estrada's swan song ...

Power grab

Leave of absence

Offer of exile



Malacañang to keep on invoking EO

2 MPs face demotion

AFP won't name intel agents . . .

Explanation needed

Repercussions

Issue not over

'Inflicting injury'

Trusting the system

No bashing for DepEd head in Senate



GLORIA'S GENERALS

GMA wants death penalty scrapped in 9 days

Fianza is new Philracom chief

Cha-cha: If Senate stalls, House to take 'initiative'

₱79-M tax raps vs firm

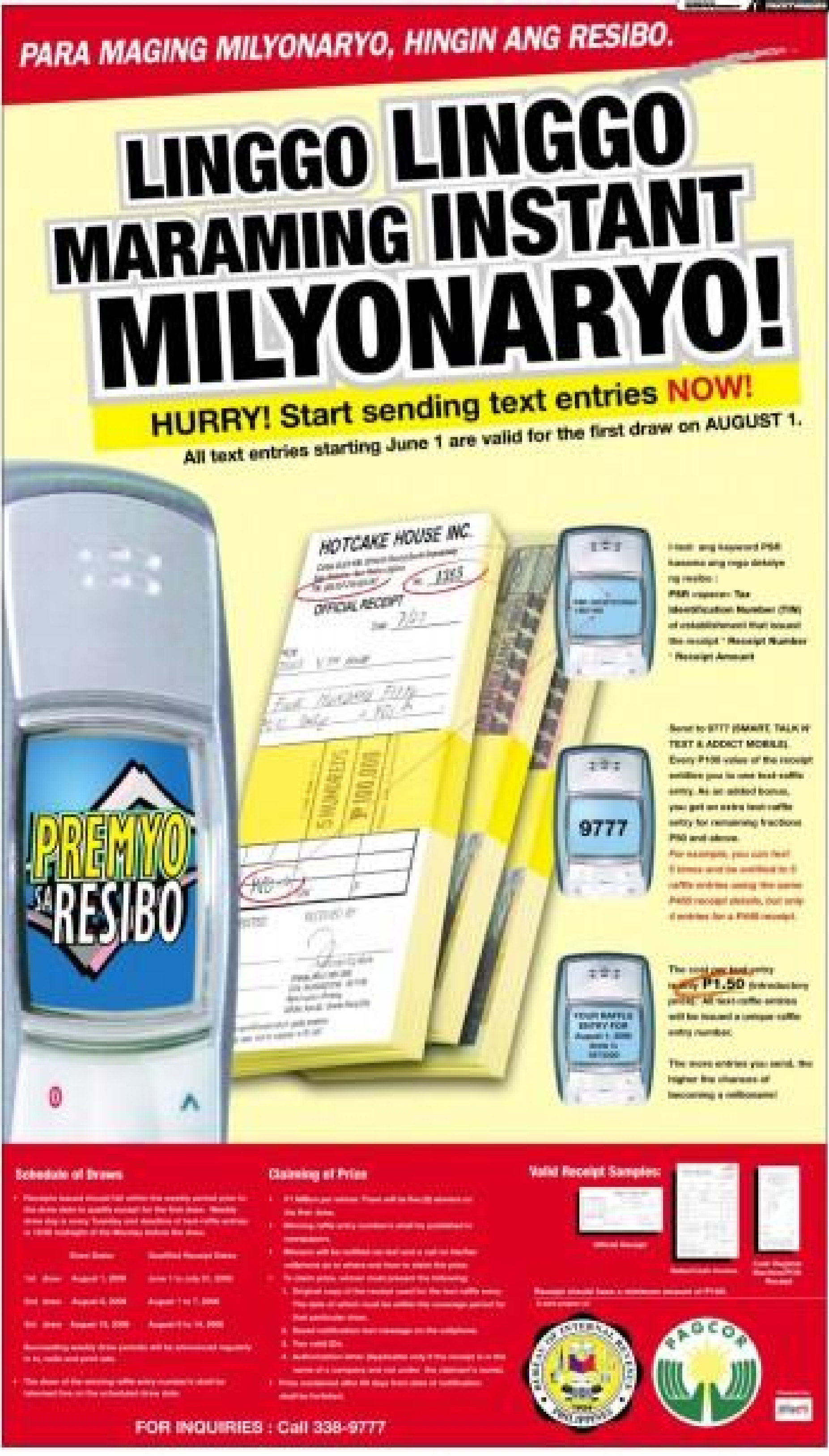
THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, June 1, 2006

Salonga lashes back at Mike Defensor



SALONGA


PARA MAGING MILYONARYO, HINGIN ANG RESIBO.
LINGGO LINGGO
MARAMING INSTANT
MILYONARYO!
HURRY! Start sending text entries NOW!
All text entries starting June 1 are valid for the first draw on AUGUST 1.
HOTCAKE HOUSE INC.
OFFICIAL RECEIPT
PREMYO SA RESIBO
9777
P1.50
Schedule of Draws
Claiming of Prize
Valid Receipt Samples:
PAGCOR
FOR INQUIRIES : Call 338-9777

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION



A real shortage

EDITORIAL

Iraq's priorities

FOREIGN COMMENT

Greasing skids

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

'Sira-ulo'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

House members: We've done our jobs



POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ABC for teachers

YOUNG BLOOD

Floriedes A. Anda

Breathless in Yogya



HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Overabundant contempt



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

THEY SAID

Source of initiative

The INQUIRER is a member of the

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Has the PCGG gone mad?

Higher educational qualification standards for MPs

Turnaround for peace reconciles former foes

LETTERS

Budgetary surplus is in fact a deficit

Didn't say allegations of torture by military agents are routine

DPWH taking GMA's orders seriously?

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Festival helps build school for village

Partnership

Hawkers' paradise

Goal

Moved

Support



YOUNG beneficiaries of the "Pasayahan sa Lucena" Festival join the parade.

Across the NATION

Cops hunting C. Luzon kidnap group

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—THE PHILIPPINE National Police is hunting members of a kidnap-for-ransom syndicate possibly operating now in Central Luzon.

Comelec proclaims Legazpi mayor rival winner; mayor says he'll appeal to SC



DRAGON ROWERS

DILG replaces mayor in publisher's slay

Cops on horseback too costly for PNP





TOUGH GUYS

Cops refile rebellion case vs 11 youths as 2 are ordered freed

Tacloban school kids cope with 4 teachers, no textbooks

Town lays out 4-km fish grill



EZ2 24 25
SUERTRES 6 2 6
FOUR DIGIT 6 1 0 2
NEWS
MEGALOTTO 6/45 13 12 29 31 33 40
₱25,755,175.80



MOUNT EVEREST summiteers Romi Garduce, Erwin Emata and Leo Oracion walk with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang grounds during yesterday's courtesy call on the President.

Palace cites 3 Mt. Everest summiteers



By Christine O. Avendaño, Tarra V. Quismundo and Tina G. Santos

THEY MAY HAVE BEEN PICtured by battling television networks as competitors, but yesterday, competition was farthest from the minds of the country's Three Summiteers, the first Filipinos to reach the top of the world's tallest mountain.

Aplus Metro

Editor: Ester G. Dipasupil

National Artist Juan Nakpil's work faces demolition crew

Once popular Avenue Theater latest victim of wrecking ball





AVENUE Theater (right): Rising, going, gone. (left): Theater was one of the buildings in Manila that remained standing at the end of World War II.

By Jerome Aning

CORRESPONDENTS CAN ONLY LIFT their ...

What's Inside

Fireworks end Makati City fête

By Tina V. Quismundo

AN 18-MINUTE FIREWORKS DISPLAY and ...



Revenge eyed in Marine's slay

By DJ Yap

MetroBriefs

Jubilee Wall

Blame it on camera



3 Manila dormitories closed for violating safety regulations

By Tina G. Santos



MAY PARADE

Customs chief has no sacred cows

ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo


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HAPPIER MOMENTS WITH YOUR FAMILY
ARE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF...
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nwa

The WORLD

Quake victims hit slow aid

BANTUL, INDONESIA—THOUSANDS OF DESperate Indonesian quake survivors were still waiting for aid Tuesday as they prepared for a fourth night under makeshift tents, despite pledges help would come quickly.



New evidence found in Diana death probe

WORLDBRIEFS

UN: Milosevic died naturally

Bombs kill 31 in Iraq

State of emergency

Palestinians to get pay

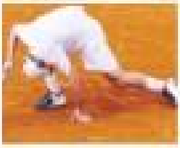
SPORTS



Express oust Realtors

NIÑO CANALETA TOOK MATTERS INTO HIS HANDS AND justifiably bailed Air21 out.

What's Inside



CHESS OLYMPIAD

Key wins by Torre, Antonio

TURIN, ITALY—WHEN THE GOING GETS rough, the veterans get tough.

Sparks seek clincher vs Painters



Shakey's girls volleyball champs' tourney starts

10 hoop camp standouts make it to Atlanta

Asian volley: Taiwan takes second place

By Joanne M. Pays

Intervillage golf starts

SPORTSWATCH

Makati stages city hall vertical marathon

Harbour Centre kids triumph

Skywalker stresses practice importance

'Kayang-Kaya' 2nd round today

Makati Coliseum stages big derbies



FRENCH OPEN

Same script for US men

PARIS—FOR AMERICAN MEN at the French Open, it's the same old story—even the quotes.

Olivarez books finals tickets in two divisions

'An answered prayer'

SPECTATOR



Stockinger steals show



SPORTS



PHOENIX Suns superstar Shawn Marion dunks against the Dallas Mavericks in the third quarter of Game 4.

Bell rings for Phoenix

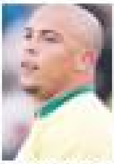
Barbosa, Nash also shine as Suns burn Mavs

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—RAJA BELL PROVIDED A SPARK AND Phoenix rediscovered their rhythm in a thorough 106-86 beating of Dallas that evened the semifinal series at two games each.

[illegible]

AP

Brazilians scattered all over World Cup







WITH such big stars as Ronaldo (left), Kaka (middle) and Ronaldinho, Brazil finds it hard to accommodate other players in its national squad.

[illegible]

AP

Tiger joining US Open golf

[illegible]

AP

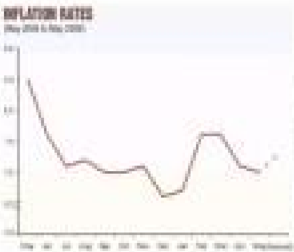
Spring stint in Bahrain

[illegible]

BUSINESS

Editor Raul D. Manalo • Assistant Editor Carole S. Martinez

BSP sees May inflation hitting high of 7.5%



Says price rise due to VAT, volatile crude oil cost

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS SAID INFLATION LIKELY hit a high of 7.5 percent in May due to the lingering problem of high oil prices in the world market that, in turn, raised the cost of basic commodities domestically.

Petron launches fuel-saving 'engine spray'

By Abigail L. Ho

SELLS JOINTLY WITH DEE FAMILY

Sy cuts stake in Chinabank

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET



Shares close lower

RP, China to draft economic cooperation plan

Petron

BSP . . .

Shares

Ilocos Norte goes for clean energy center tag

Mini hydro plants up for rehabilitation to boost renewable energy sources

Financial constraints

Renewable energy

Incentives



WIND power turbines in Bangui

BIR 2006 collection target too high, says Buñag

Action plans set to meet revenue goals

Bond on the run

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

Insular Life net up 20% in 2005



LRTA POSTS PROFIT AFTER 11 YEARS

Favila vows to push for poor countries' concerns in meet

Bancommerce cited for role in putting up bank in Africa

₱12.9-M Transco asset sale OKd

Banks told to stick to rules governing UITF transactions

Rich urged to adopt aid for trade

Economist debunks First World claim 'trade not aid' solves woes

Pancake House now back in the black

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

IMI eyes maiden offering in international market

Business

PNOC-EDC expects ₱10.5-B income in '06

PNOC CEO attributes growth to turnover of Leyte plant

By Abigail L. Ho

In Ilocos Norte, tax collection up 20% in April

By Cristina Arzadon

Task Force Davao

MindanaoWorld

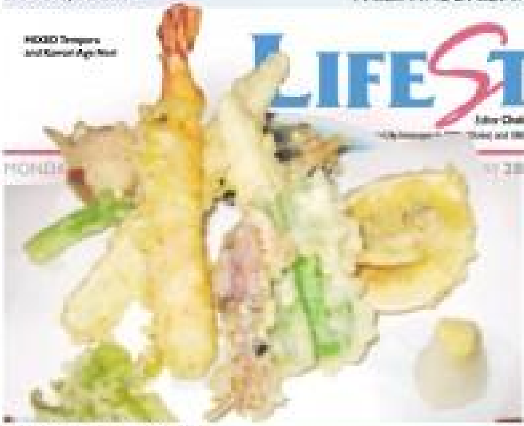
Joji Ilagan Bian

New strategies

Support services

LIFESTYLE
Editor: Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ... 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY


MIXED Tempura and Kawari Age Nori

Of perfect tempura and fancy sushi

I HAVE BEEN HEARING MUCH about the excellence of Inagiku's new sushi chef for sometime now, so when the topic came up during one of our chef's tables, there was no doubt that a visit was in order.

The expedition to Makati was worth every liter of gasoline. It was a multi-culinary journey like no other! I pay tribute to chef Eikawa's creativity and love for craft. I strongly urge you to try his creations, which I fondly call the Eikawa 'Aburi' sushi plate. It was filled with Aburi Salmon (Lightly Grilled Salmon Sushi), Aburi Toro (Lightly Grilled Toro Sushi), Aburi Engawa (Lightly Grilled Flounder), Aburi Zuwai Crab (Lightly Grilled Snow Crab).

Kitchen Rescue


Reggie Aspiras

You'll never know the true meaning of seafood freshness that melts in your mouth until you've tried these perfectly executed masterpieces. The only regret I have is that I had just one piece of each. Next time, two orders, please!

To eat sushi would have been enough but, fortunately, I dined exactly at the time master tempura chef Sadao Katagiri, of the Inagiku Restaurant Main House in Tokyo, was in town!

Inagiku has set the benchmark for exceptional tempura dining worldwide. Katagiri's task was to impart his knowledge to Inagiku's staff in Manila.

I got the chance to chat with chef Katagiri, and he told me the secret to perfect tempura.

"A serene mind, always cooks better," he said. "When you cook tempura, you must touch, look, smell and listen. The bubbling sound of tempura being cooked in oil says it all. It tells you when your tempura is ready to be taken out of oil, drained on paper and served! And then, it's time to taste!"

He ends by saying: "Yes, all five senses make the perfect tempura."

Other than the usual prawn tempura on the Tempura, I had Kawari Age (Scallop and Chicken wrapped with Nori and Lapu-lapu with Avocado), Hamaguri (Clam), Takenoko (Bamboo Shoots), [illegible] and [illegible].

Authentic tempura enthusiasts must meet chef Katagiri as he makes tempura dining a sublime experience. He uses seasonal seafood and vegetables from Japan to add to his signature batter, combining tradition and ingenuity in his cuisine. Call Makati Shangri-La at [illegible].

Kiddie favorite

Can you share a baked spaghetti recipe that kids will like? I need a recipe for my business.

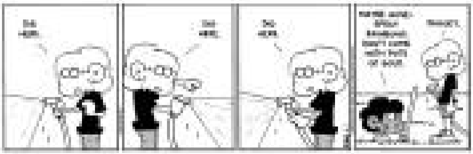
MS PELAYO

Did this for my children's class and it's the best children's party spaghetti I have

[illegible]


LAPU-LAPU with Avocado

FOXTROT — BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN



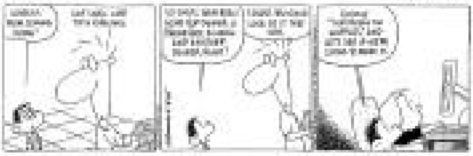
MARVIN — BY TOM ARMSTRONG



PUGAD BABOY



BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS — BY PATRICK McDONNELL

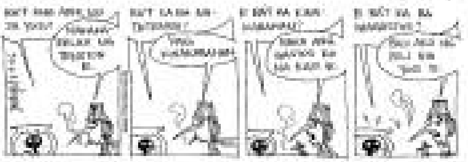


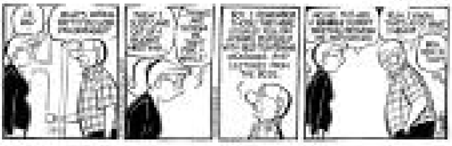
ATOMO AND WEBBY



DIVINE COMEDY



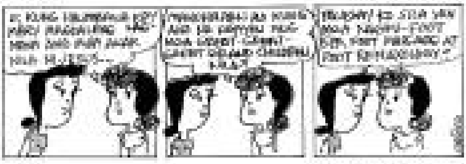


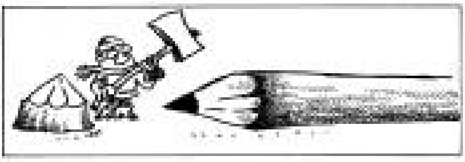


KIKO MACHINE



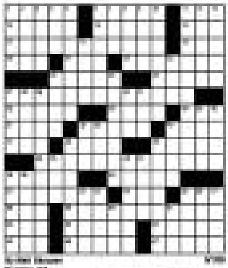
LOVENOTS

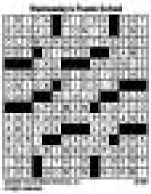




Horoscope

Daily Crossword





Of perfect tempura and fancy sushi



Sharing sources

New popcorn flavors

Sweet endings





Cooking class for dad and kid

Make your own 'binalot'

Snack meals for 'baon'

Healthful indulgences







Leyte hometown . . .

Question



Leyte hometown cooking

Country Cooking



Micky Fenix

Fat's a must

Missing ingredient

LEYTE